

## REMARKS

### Introduction

Claims 1-29 are pending in this application, wherein claims 1, 5, 9, 11, 13, 16, 18, and 22 have been amended and claims 2-4, 12, and 17 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, to place the application in condition for allowance. It should be noted that the Applicant does not acquiesce in the Examiner's rejections, but rather has elected to amend the claims in order to expedite prosecution of the application leading to issuance of a patent.

### Claim Objections / Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating that claims 4, 5, 12, 17, and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

### 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) – Larisey, Jr., et al.

Claims 1-3, 6-11, 13-16, and 19-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Larisey, Jr. et al. (USP 6,185,769)(hereinafter "*Larisey*").

1. Claim 1

Claim 1 is amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable Claim 4 and the intervening claims.

2. Claims 6-8, and 28

Claims 6-8, and 28 depend from Claim 1, which, as amended, Applicant believes to be allowable.

3. Claim 9

Claim 9 is amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable Claim 5.

4. Claims 10 and 15

Claims 10 and 15 depend from Claim 9, which, as amended, Applicant believes to be allowable.

5. Claim 11

Claim 11 is amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable Claim 12.

6. Claim 13

Claim 13 is amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable Claim 18.

7. Claim 14  
Claim 14 depends from Claim 13, which Applicant believes is now allowable.
8. Claim 16  
Claim 16 is amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable Claim 17.
9. Claims 18-21 and 29  
Claims 18-21 and 29 depend from Claim 16, which Applicant believes is now allowable.
10. Claim 22  
Claim 22 is amended to incorporate subject matter from allowable Claim 18.
11. Claims 23-27  
Claims 23-27 depend from Claim 22, which Applicant believes is now allowable.

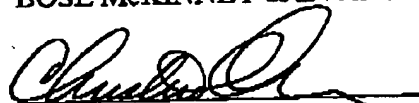
**Final Remarks**

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-29 are now in condition for allowance. Such allowance is respectfully requested.

If necessary, Applicant requests that this Amendment be considered a request for an extension of time for a time appropriate for the response to be timely filed. Applicant requests that any required fees for filing this Amendment be charged to the account of Bose McKinney & Evans LLP, Deposit Account Number 02-3223.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided below should any questions or comments arise during the course of reconsideration of this matter.

Respectfully submitted,  
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